

respond to other questions that I haven't had time in my introductory statement to address. With that, I would urge your advancement of the bill. Thank you.

**SPEAKER BARRETT:** Thank you. Discussion on the advancement of the bill, Senator Byars followed by Senators Labeledz and Wesely.

**SENATOR BYARS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We do have a success story that we like to brag about down in the southeast corner of the state in Beatrice, and it's a success story that was built by a combination of public and private ingenuity in combination with Southeast Community College. We have had, because of a tremendous amount of effort that's been expended on the part of many people, been able to bring into one location 13 separate agencies that were widely spread throughout southeast Nebraska and, by doing this, we have been able to not only make it easier for people with needs to receive information about how to receive assistance with dignity, but we have...we're making this efficient in the manner in which we're being, it's being presented. You know, one of the toughest jobs that any of us can have is in the area of parenting. The daily pressures of child care and rearing children, combined with the lack of knowledge about child development, creates, in many instances, child abuse. And in order to be able to help parents, particularly young parents, expectant, and expectant parents, cope with the challenges of parenting can go a long way toward preventing that abuse. We have found that all families need a variety of community services especially families in distress, and difficulties, as I said, arise in locating the appropriate programs or services and coordinating those segments that are being offered. In Beatrice, we've established what is called the Family Resource Center, which has combined all of these agencies under the same roof. Some of these participating agencies at this time, so that you'll be able to identify with them, Blue Valley Mental Health, CISDV, which is a Coordinated Intervention System for Domestic Violence, Family Health Services, which is family planning, Job Training of Greater Nebraska, Legal Services of Southeast Nebraska, Lutheran Family Services, Mother to Mother, Nebraska Department of Social Services, Southeast Community College and WIC which is Women, Infants and Children. The goal of the Family Resource Center is for these service systems to work together to develop and to promote educational programs and early intervention systems for the prevention of family crisis and we have been able to do that, and in addition to this, to stabilize families in crisis